

## MEMORANDUM

DATE: July 8, 1998

FROM: Refuge Manager, Back Bay NWR

SUBJECT: 1998 Deer & Hog Hunt Program

TO: Regional Director, FWS, Hadley, MA(RW)  
Attn: Associate Manager - Refuges South

The following annual hunt program is planned for Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge for 1998:

### A. BIOLOGICAL SOUNDNESS

Refuge hunting for the 1998 season will include white-tailed deer and feral hogs only. The State of Virginia's Department of Game & Inland Fisheries (VDGIF) maintains a policy of permitting deer hunting on an established deer herd. The presence of the deer herd requires hunting of that herd, especially if the habitats supporting that herd are low-quality (poor soils and limited forage). The Refuge supports this State policy. The current hunting areas at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge meet this policy standard. An established deer herd has been existing within very limited, substandard (barrier island) habitats. This herd has been open to hunting since 1986.

The feral hog is also open to hunting. It is not a naturally occurring wildlife species here. Instead, it is often considered a pest that consumes valuable wildlife food, disrupts wildlife habitat and threatens the dike system slopes with erosion damage where they root.

Eight hunting zones totalling 2,007 acres will be opened for public hunting. Seven of the zones are located on the oceanfront, barrier island portion of the Refuge; six of these are south of the maintenance compound and one north of the office/Visitor Contact Station. The eighth zone is on Long Island. Areas to be hunted include 1,037 acres of open marsh, 284 acres of forested habitat, and 686 acres of Long Island fields, forest, and open marshes.

The 1997 deer/hog hunting season was the eleventh consecutive year of this hunting program at Back Bay NWR. Bow hunting is also permitted during the seven day hunt. Final results of the 1997 Refuge deer hunt were as follows:

Total Gun Hunter Days Available = (62 slots available/day for all units x 7 days =) 434  
Total Hunter Days Used = 307

A total of 315 hunt applications (178 paired and 137 single applications) were received; for a total of 593 hunt applicants. Of these, 318 applicants were selected via the Refuge Computer Lottery. One non-ambulatory hunter applied, but was unable to find an ambulatory hunting partner, and canceled. Final results showed that a total of 307 hunters spent approximately 2,456 hours bagging 33 deer and 8 hogs.

Deer Harvest:

Total Deer Taken..... 33 (19 bucks, 14 does)

Feral Hog Harvest:

Total Hogs Taken..... 8 (2 boars, 2 sows & 4 unknowns [sex not indicated on Harvest Data check card.]

Hunter Success Rates (deer only):

Overall Hunter Success..... 10.7% (22.2% in 1996)

Table #1 below, details the hunt harvests for the past eleven years.

Table #1. 1987-1997 Hunt Harvest Summary											
	1987	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997
#Does	54	40	23	15	15	24	16	27	24	34	19
#Bucks	19	20	15	15	39	24	23	29	22	25	14
Total Deer	73	60	38	30	54	48	39	56	46	59	33
Total Hogs	6	10	6	1	14	9	19	22	17	38	8

The two largest deer (dressed out weights) taken on the Refuge during the 1997 hunt, were: a 103 lbs. buck with 8 points and a 103 lbs. buck with 7 points. The largest hog (dressed out weight) taken on the Refuge during the 1997 hunt was a 118 lbs. unknown sex (sex not indicated on Harvest Data check card). Both the 1997 Refuge deer and hog harvests were the second lowest since the hunt began in 1986. The doe harvest was the lowest to date. One albino ("piebald") doe was taken in Zone 7 (Long Island) - a sign of possible inbreeding there because of its isolated and remote nature.

Table #2 summarizes abomasum parasite counts (APCs) conducted during 1980, 1983, 1986, 1988, 1992 and 1996. APCs were most recently collected with the help of VDGIF officials during the fall of 1996, prior to the Refuge Hunt. Six deer were collected from the northern un hunted areas bordering Sandbridge Road, for the first time; together with another seven from within the Refuge Hunt Zones (as usual). These counts are general indicators of the health of the deer herd. Higher APC levels are indicative of a less healthy, more stressed population. Refuge biological staff work with VDGIF Biologists to periodically gather this data.

Table #2. 1980 - 1992 Average APC Data Summary - Refuge Hunting Units

<u>1980</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1986</u>	<u>1988</u>	<u>1992</u>	<u>1996</u>
1565	2273	1808	2362	1345	1777*/ 793**

\* (APC levels in seven deer collected from Refuge barrier island hunting units.)

\*\* (APC levels in six deer collected from northern, un hunted Refuge mainland properties.)

The 1992 APC level declined significantly when compared with 1988 samples. It is generally believed by both Refuge and State biologists that the refuge deer herd is healthier now than since the early 1980's, despite the lower average deer harvested (dressed out) weights. The APC figure for 1992 reflected a general improvement in herd condition; however, APC levels are still high enough, and

body conditions marginal enough, to warrant further reduction through hunting.

The 1996 APC data is interesting because it reflected a marked physical difference between deer living on barrier island and mainland habitats. Mainland deer maintained generally better body condition and lower APC levels than barrier island deer -- despite the fact that the barrier island deer have been hunted annually since 1988. Past APC levels have been from deer collected from Refuge Hunting Units. The 1996 APC level (1777) is higher than during 1992, but not drastic enough to warrant concern from State and Refuge biological staff. Four of the seven deer collected from the barrier island hunting units were in an emaciated state; and three of those four had high APC levels (2440 - 2820). VDGIF game biologists recommended a moderate reduction of the barrier island deer herd, since they felt the herd had exceeded the habitats' carrying capacities.

The average dressed deer weights between 1988 and 1997 are shown below in Table #3 for Back Bay Refuge. There is a definite downward trend in deer weights; possibly due to the consistent harvests each year. This frequent harvesting may be maintaining a younger, and therefore smaller-sized, deer population within the Refuge and False Cape State Park (FCSP). The average weights of FCSP deer are showing a similar reduction. Fifty-eight percent of all antlerless deer taken during the 1996 hunt were fawns. Sixty-five percent of all antlerless deer taken during 1997 were fawns. Since 1993, an upward trend in the percentage of fawns taken during the Refuge hunt has been evident.

Table #3. Average Dressed Deer Weights, 1988 - 1997

<u>Year</u>	<u>Weight(lbs.)</u>
1988	67.0
1989	55.0
1990	65.0
1991	55.0
1992	56.0
1993	56.8
1994	53.7
1995	51.4
1996	49.9
1997	54.6

Harvest data for 1.5 year-old deer during 1993 -1997 are presented in Table #4 below.

During 1990-1995, the Refuge impoundment rehabilitation project continued. Approximately 250 acres were root-raked; dikes were constructed and seeded; ditches were dug; impoundment interiors were disced, mowed and burned; and 40 acres of Japanese millet was planted. Vegetation composition has been altered dramatically, towards a moist soil management regime, with emphasis on migratory waterbird management. Many deer have probably been displaced by these construction activities during winter. However, the amount and quality of available deer browse during the summer and fall appear to have increased as a result of moist soil management efforts. Unfortunately, this work may also be negatively impacting the deer herd, by reducing the amount of available deer browse during the winter, when most of those areas are flooded.

Remaining deer habitat on this barrier island still suffers from some overbrowsing, as first observed in the early eighties; while the wintering carrying capacity of the Refuge is decreasing as habitat types shift from uplands to wetlands. The greatest habitat decrease occurs during the winter - as wintering waterbirds arrive and 880 acres of vegetated impoundments are flooded - when deer experience the

most stress.

Location	'93/'94/'95/'96/'97 Avg. ABD (mm)	'93/'94/'95/'96/'97 Avg. Weight (lbs)	'93/'94/'95/'96/'97 Avg. # Points
FCSP	13.1/10.3/10.5/**/**	58/58/58/**/**	2.8/3.7/2.0/**/**
BBNWR	11.5/14.0/11.3/12.5/11.5	52/66/68/60/57	2.5/2.0/2.0/2.3/2.0

\*Courtesy of Thad Cherry, VA Dept. Game & Inland Fisheries, Williamsburg, VA, 1998.

\*\* Not Available

In past years, spotlight deer surveys were conducted before and after the hunts. However, this data was not compiled properly, nor used in reports intended to establish annual trends. These surveys were not conducted during 1992 or thereafter. The logic of continuing these surveys with poor visibility, tall vegetation and changing habitat conditions; the limited and inaccurate trends data that are provided; and the lack of purpose for conducting these surveys -- all pointed to the need for their elimination. In addition, a need for such data does not exist, since current State deer management policy is that the presence of a deer herd is grounds for a deer hunting program; and population monitoring is not necessary.

### 1. Refuge Hunt History

Since the initial hunt in 1986, discussions have been held annually with State personnel regarding the combined Back Bay Refuge/False Cape State Park hunt program. The Refuge and Park deer herd occupy the same oceanfront/barrier spit, and interchange occurs. The State herd has been hunted since 1980. Greater cooperation occurs each year as most of the duplicate efforts of the two agencies are consolidated.

During 1988, FCSP hunters checked in and out at the Refuge. Hunter transportation to and from the hunting zones was consolidated. Both State and Federal employees staffed the deer check station.

The 1989 deer hunt saw increased cooperation with the False Cape State Park deer hunt as the two programs evolved toward a single, combined hunt program. Back Bay staff conducted a stand-by lottery for both the Refuge and False Cape State Park (FCSP, the Park) with elected standby hunters able to choose from slots available from either the Park or the Refuge.

Refuge staff time devoted to the 1989 hunt was 1/5 higher than required; however, this was necessary to ensure that more Refuge personnel were familiar with all aspects of the hunt program. Perhaps the most significant change during the 1989 season was the initiation of fees charged to both the Park and Refuge hunters. All hunters were subject to the entrance fee, and refuge hunters also paid a \$5.00 Special Use Fee. The total revenue collected for the 1989 season was \$2,610.00, plus four duck stamps sold.

The 1990 hunt did not require the 1989 level of staff time, since additional scheduling flexibility had developed. The 1990 season saw a modification of the fee schedule (as outlined by the May 11th Regional Office memo) with Refuge hunters paying \$10.00, and FCSP hunters subject to the

entrance fee. Special use fee collections totalled \$2,595.00 in 1990.

The 1991 hunting program was similar to the 1990 program, with the addition of a non-ambulatory hunting unit and a new lottery selection computer program designed by Zone Biologist Hal Laskowski. The non-ambulatory hunting unit near the headquarters was not used, since no one applied. The 1992 - 1996 Hunt Programs were similar to the 1991 program, except that Hunting Unit #5 became the new non-ambulatory hunting unit; since it affords the easiest access for non-ambulatory hunters.

The 1996 Hunt Program generated more funds than during prior years due to the new \$5 application fee; however, it was not sufficient to completely offset the administrative costs of the hunt program. This was probably due to the reduced number of applications received for the 1996 hunt (369, versus 582 for 1995). There was also a corresponding decline in the number of applicants chosen (261 in 1996 vs. 351 in 1995), and in hunter hours expended; however, the 1996 deer and hog harvest increased! The new \$5.00 application fee, in addition to the \$10.00 Special Use Fee, is expected to continue generating additional funds to administer the hunt without putting the program "in the red."

Reservations and the lottery procedures for 1998 will be the same as during 1996 - 1997, and in accordance with the attached regulations. They have not differed since 1989, other than the non-refundable \$5.00 application fee instituted in 1996. This \$5.00 fee will be charged to all hunters who apply for the computer lottery again this year.

As during 1996-1997, the \$5.00 Special Use Fee and the \$5.00 Entrance fee will be combined during the 1998 hunter selection process. All Refuge hunters -- including those selected from the computer lottery and the standby hunt -- will be charged a flat \$10.00 Special Use Fee. This \$10 fee will be in addition to the \$5 application fee. The attached hunter information packet reflects these changes.

The 1998 Hunt Program selection process will otherwise be the same as in 1997, including the non-ambulatory hunter provisions. Non-ambulatory hunters will be selected via their own separate lottery. To qualify for this hunt, persons must be non-ambulatory and meet the requirements specified by Virginia State Game and Inland Fisheries (see Lottery Information Sheet, Attachment #2). For safety reasons, non-ambulatory hunters are accommodated in a special hunt. They are encouraged to be accompanied by a non-hunting, ambulatory partner. If a hunter possesses a Virginia State disabled hunting license, or a Golden Age/Golden Access passport, they may qualify for other special accommodations by the Refuge Manager, including a 50% discount on the hunting fee. Those needing special accommodations should contact the Refuge Manager in advance.

## B. ECONOMIC FEASIBILITY

The 1996 hunt income was below the expected \$5,000 - \$6,000, and was traced to the much lower number of applications (369) received for the 1996 hunt (135 paired & 99 single), than for the 1995 hunt (582 -- 181 paired & 220 single). Refuge staff thought that the new \$5.00 application fee was a factor, and that the number of applicants would increase in 1997, when this fee was no longer a new concept. This appears to have been the case, since the total number of 1997 applicants (593 -- 178 paired & 137 single) was much higher than that for the 1996 hunt.

The October 12, 1997 annual Federal Recreation Fee Program report (from the Refuge Outdoor Recreation Planner) presented the following data. The 1997 Hunt Program generated a total of

\$4,575 (\$1,590 application fees, \$2,900 special use fees, \$50 Golden Age and \$35 Golden Access) from Back Bay Refuge hunters, and \$376 (driver visits) from False Cape State Park hunters, for a total of \$4,951. The costs for running the hunt totalled \$6,187.50 (salaries \$5,492.50, utilities \$425, supplies \$120, equipment \$100, other \$50). Past projections have estimated approximately \$5,200 as the total cost of the hunt. Therefore, the 1997 Refuge Hunt Program was \$1,612.50 "in the red." At this point, we do not entirely understand the reason for the deficit. One possibility could be improper coding of time sheets by employees involved with the hunt program.

The necessary funds are available for administration of the hunt program within the annual Refuge budget. However, based on last year's application and special user fees, the 1998 hunt could generate approximately \$5,000, including income from the new \$5.00 application fee. Efforts will be made to monitor and keep salary costs lower than during the 1998 hunt.

### C. RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PROGRAMS AND RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Threatened and endangered species found on the Refuge include: the Loggerhead sea turtle, Peregrine falcon, Piping plover, and Bald eagle. Loggerhead sea turtles nest on the Refuge beach. The beach is outside all hunting zones, and hunting occurs after the loggerhead nesting season.

Peregrine falcons are frequently found on the Refuge during the raptor migration; however, they generally use the beach area and pass through prior to the hunting season. The same applies to the piping plover.

Although there is a Bald eagle nest in the North Bay Marshes, it is well to the north of the hunting zones, and the resident eagles usually leave the area by October. Bald eagles generally use the Refuge only incidentally during October; and the hunting program should have no effect on their infrequent use. Thus, the hunt should have no significant impact to any endangered or threatened species.

The hunt will have a minor, negative impact on waterbirds (waterfowl, wading birds, marsh birds, and shorebirds). Disturbance of small numbers of waterbirds is unavoidable when 62 hunters per day are allowed access to Refuge hunt areas that correspond with moist soil management units. It is, therefore, expected that waterbird numbers during the hunt will decrease slightly (when compared to non-hunt years) due to this disturbance. However, Refuge deer hunt dates do not coincide with the Virginia Waterfowl Hunting Season dates; and, even though a limited, temporary displacement of waterbirds is expected, indirect mortality (from pushing waterfowl into waterfowl hunting areas) will not occur. Peak waterfowl populations occur after the proposed deer hunting dates, thus further reducing temporary impacts to these birds. The 1998 Refuge hunt is once again proposed for the first full week of October (3rd - 10th), prior to the peak waterfowl migration.

The 1986 - 1988 Refuge hunts occurred during late October - early November, when outdoor classroom visits by school groups were at their peak. The fall waterfowl migration begins peaking at this time, and is accompanied by an increase in public use on weekends. The late October-early November hunt dates conflicted with these higher priority public use and waterfowl migration visits. The proposed early October 1998 dates will minimize these conflicts.

For safety reasons, the entire refuge will be closed to the public for all uses except deer/hog hunting, throughout the 7 day hunt. This closure includes the Sunday after the opening Saturday of the season.

D. REFUGE-SPECIFIC REGULATIONS

Special hunter requirements and refuge regulations for hunting deer and feral hogs on Back Bay NWR are as follows:

1. Species to be taken - white-tailed deer and feral hogs only.
2. Bag limits:
  - a) two deer per day, three per season (or in accordance with state regulations, whichever is greater).
  - b) feral hogs - no daily or seasonal limit.
3. Seasons:
  - a) Firearms - the first through the second Saturday in October for a total of seven hunt days (Oct. 3 - 10).
4. Shooting Hours: one half-hour before sunrise until one half-hour after sunset.
5. Hunting Equipment:
  - a) Bow and arrow in accordance with state regulations.
  - b) Shotguns - 20 gauge or larger, loaded with buckshot or slugs only.
6. Other Refuge Regulations:
  - a) The use of nails, screws, or bolts to attach stands to trees is prohibited.
  - b) Possession of other weapons or ammunition is prohibited (including bird shot for killing snakes).
  - c) Dogs are prohibited.
  - d) Possession of loaded firearms or nocked arrows in or on a vehicle/boat, or shooting from a vehicle/boat, is prohibited.
  - e) Possession of loaded firearms or nocked arrows on a Refuge dike/road (or on the proclamation waters) is prohibited.
  - f) Unauthorized entry outside of the hunt area and driving motorized vehicles off designated roads is prohibited.
  - g) Camping and fires on the Refuge are prohibited.
  - h) Shooting at any animals (including snakes) other than deer or feral hogs is prohibited.
  - i) Hunters must bring and conspicuously wear a minimum of 400 square inches of solid-colored, "hunter blaze orange" clothing or material, on their head, chest, and back.
  - j) Once hunters are checked in, they may not leave the Refuge until the end of their hunt day. Once they have left, they cannot return.
  - k) Zone 7 hunters must be off Long Island by 4:45 p.m.
  - l) Zone 5 is reserved for non-ambulatory hunters only, since it has the best

accessibility. On days that a non-ambulatory hunter is selected for that hunting zone, only non-ambulatory hunting will be permitted in Zone 5. On other days, the Zone will be available to the general public.

7. Lottery Rules - Reservations for hunt days and zones will be on a computer lottery basis. Rules for the lottery will be as follows:
  - a) Hunter information packets, including a hunt application, will be available to the public by early August.
  - b) All applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, September 8, and be received no later than close-of-business, Thursday, September 10.
  - c) A public lottery will be held at the Refuge headquarters on Wednesday, September 16, at 10:00 a.m.
  - d) Those persons submitting more than one application for themselves will be automatically disqualified by the computer program.
  - e) Hunters will select a maximum of four hunt date/zone combinations. Non-selected hunters may attempt to hunt standby (See #9c. below).
  - f) Paired applicants (limited to two hunters) will be accepted. Paired applicants can only submit one application with BOTH portion A and B completed. Hunting date/zone selection will still be as detailed above; however, if lottery applications cannot be accommodated in the same zone, on the same date, neither will be selected during the lottery.
  - g) All applications must be filled out completely.
  - h) Successful applicants will be registered for one day, in one zone only, and will be sent a "selection notice". Unsuccessful applicants will NOT be notified.
  
8. Scouting - Scouting in Zones 1 through 6 and 8 will be restricted to the week prior to the Refuge hunt (September 26 - October 2; unless other special arrangements are made with the approval of the Refuge Manager), and only during normal Refuge open hours. Scouting is permitted on bicycle or foot only, and is limited to established roads and trails. Scouting in Zone 7 (Long Island) will only be permitted during the prior week, September 21 - 27. Scouts must wear hunter orange (ballcap, vest); they are advised to be alert to the presence of the poisonous cottonmouth ("Water Moccasin") snake, and avoid (rather than kill) them. Weapons are not permitted on the Refuge during scouting periods. All scouts must notify Refuge Staff prior to entering any hunt zones, to avoid law enforcement conflicts.
  
9. Checking in/out:
  - a) After registering at the Refuge Entrance Fee Booth, all hunters must then check in and out at the Refuge deer-check station, located in the Refuge maintenance compound.
  - b) During this check-in, each hunter must present their "selection notice" (see #7h. above), and a valid Virginia deer hunting license. Each hunter will be checked off on the Hunter Roster, and then be issued a *permit to hunt in one zone only*. Signing the permit constitutes acceptance by the hunter to obey all hunt rules and regulations at Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge.
  - c) The check-in station will open at 4:00 a.m. Reservations will be honored only until 5:00 a.m. After 5:00 a.m., standby hunters already present will be

allowed to fill vacant slots in a separate standby lottery. Selected standby hunters will be registered and issued a daily permit by approximately 5:30 a.m. Please note that the standby lottery will be held once each day at approximately 5:15 a.m. and successfully selected hunters will be transported to the field at approximately 5:45 a.m. You must have entered the Refuge by 5:00 a.m. and have received a standby lottery ticket at the gate to participate in the standby lottery.

10. Transportation:
  - a) Transportation from the check station to and from zones 1 through 6, will be provided by Back Bay Refuge.
  - b) Transportation to Zone 7 (Long Island) must be provided by the hunter in the form of hand-launched boats (punt, canoe, row-boat, etc., without a boat-trailer).
  - c) Transportation from the check station to and from Zone 8 will be provided by the hunter; hunters must park in designated parking areas.
  - d) Non-ambulatory hunters must provide their own transportation to and from their hunt area (Zone 5).
  
11. Field-dressing Game - All game should be dressed in the field at least 100 feet from any road or trail.
  
12. Closed Area - The hacking tower in Zone 3 is closed to the public. No one is permitted to climb it. Safety zones exist around the deer-check station and headquarters buildings. No hunting, nor discharging of firearms, is permitted in those safety zones.

E. COMPATIBILITY

An in-depth compatibility review of the Refuge hunt program was conducted during August 1994. The formal compatibility determination was approved in September 1994. Conditions and impacts described in that determination remain essentially the same and are summarized below.

Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge was established on June 6, 1938 (Executive Order 7907) as a refuge and breeding ground for migratory birds. In 1939, 4,600 acres of water in Back Bay was closed to the taking of migratory waterfowl by Presidential Proclamation. Big game hunting will be allowed on 2,007 acres of the approximately 7,800 acres of Refuge, or about 26% of the total Refuge area. Big game hunting will be used to effectively manage the Refuge deer and hog populations and will occur at times and in places that will not negatively impact habitat. Minor and temporary disturbances to other wildlife will occur, but the net result of management efforts will be healthier wildlife populations and less competition with migrating and wintering waterbirds for food. The big game hunting program is managed as an integral part of the comprehensive refuge management program.

Prepared by: John S. Hallgren Date: 7/14/1998  
Wildlife Biologist

Submitted by: John P. Starke Date: July 13, 1998  
Refuge Manager

ATTACHMENT #1

Dear Hunter:

Enclosed is the information you requested for the 1998 Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Deer and Hog Hunt.

1. The season dates are October 3 and October 5 through 10.
2. The hunt is a shotgun hunt; however, archery hunting is also permitted.
3. **There will be a \$5.00 non-refundable application fee to participate in the computer lottery.** This fee is required for both single and paired applications. Please send \$5.00 per person with each application. It is necessary to offset the increasing administrative costs of conducting the lottery and hunt (salaries, signs, fuel, mailings, etc.) All hunters, both selected and on standby, will also continue to be charged the \$10.00 daily special user fee -- payable on the hunt day at the check-in station. The daily special user fee includes the Refuge entrance fee. All non-ambulatory hunters and holders of a Golden Access or Golden Age Passport shall receive a 50% discount on the special user fee(\$5.00); however, they must still pay the \$5.00 application fee to participate in the lottery.
4. All hunters must bring with them and wear **at least** 400 square inches of a solid-colored, **hunter blaze orange** (a vest and baseball cap).
5. One special non-ambulatory hunter zone is available this year (Zone 5). Consult the attached "Lottery Information Sheet" for more details. Non-ambulatory applicants must indicate the type of hunting technique to be used, and special equipment required to accomodate their hunt.

Please review all of the attached additional information. If you have any questions, please contact the Refuge headquarters at (757) 721-2412. Thank you for your interest in hunting at Back Bay NWR.

Sincerely,

John P. Stasko  
Refuge Manager

UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
PLUM TREE ISLAND NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE  
4005 Sandpiper Road  
Virginia Beach, VA 23456

1998 Deer/Feral Hog Hunt Lottery Information Sheet

HOW TO APPLY FOR THE HUNT:

Submit only one completed application (attached).

Selections for hunt days and zones will be made randomly on a computer lottery basis. Rules for the lottery will be as follows:

- \* All applications must be postmarked by Tuesday, September 8, 1998, and be received no later than close-of-business, Thursday, September 10.
- \* A \$5.00 per person, non-refundable fee must accompany each application, including paired applications. This (\$10.00) fee covers both applicants A and B on a paired application. Do not send cash through the mail. Only personal checks or money orders, made payable to: "Back Bay NWR," will be accepted. Checks returned for insufficient funds will result in your disqualification from the lottery. The application and non-refundable fee, cash or check, may be hand-delivered during regular office hours (Monday - Friday from 8:00am - 4:00pm).
- \* A public lottery will be held at the Refuge headquarters on Wednesday, September 16, 1998 at 10 a.m.
- \* Hunters may select a maximum of four hunt date/zone combinations. Date/zone selections must include actual hunt dates and zone numbers preferred, and must appear as the following example: "10/10; Zone 6". The preference of "Any Date/Any Zone" on the application will result in its rejection.
- \* Paired (limited to two hunters) hunting applications will be accepted. Hunting choice selection (date/zone) will still be as detailed above; however, if both lottery applicants cannot be accommodated in the same zone, on the same date, neither will be selected during the lottery. (Note: There is no known advantage or disadvantage in applying for the hunt with a paired application.)
- \* Paired applicants may submit only one completed application form with BOTH portion A and B completed. **Applicants submitting more than one application will be automatically disqualified by the computer program.**
- \* Successful applicants will be registered for one day in one zone only, and will be sent a selection notice. Unsuccessful applicants will not be notified.

- \* A total of 62 daily permits will be issued for each of the seven hunt days. Those hunters not selected may participate in the daily stand-by lottery to be held at 5:15 a.m. at the Back Bay Refuge Visitor Contact Station.
- \* Zone 5 will be available for non-ambulatory hunters as defined by Virginia State Game and Inland Fisheries. Non-ambulatory hunters are defined as "any person who presents a medical doctor's written statement that such person is permanently unable to walk". If you meet this criteria, please check YES on the bottom of the application form. An individual holding a Virginia State Disabled Hunter's License, and/or a Golden Access Passport, and/or a Golden Age Passport, and who is in need of special accommodations should contact the Refuge Manager or his designee in advance, and notify them of the special hunting techniques to be utilized, and special equipment required.
- \* The check-in station will open at 4:00 a.m. Reservations will be honored only until 5:00 a.m. After 5:00 a.m., standby hunters already present will be allowed to fill vacant slots on a separate standby lottery basis. Selected hunters will be registered and issued a daily permit. Please note that the standby lottery will be held once each day at approximately 5:15 a.m. and successfully selected hunters will be transported to the field at approximately 5:45 a.m. You must have entered the Refuge by 5:00 a.m. and have received a standby lottery ticket at the gate to participate in the drawing.
- \* All hunters are subject to the Refuge special user fee of \$10.00/hunter/day, payable on the hunt day at the check-in station. Individuals possessing a Virginia State disabled hunter's license, a Golden Access Passport or a Golden Age Passport, will receive a 50% fee reduction.
- \* Scouting will be allowed in Zones 1-6 and Zone 8 by foot or bicycle from existing trails, only during the week prior to the Refuge Hunt (September 26 - October 2) during normal Refuge open hours (sunrise to sunset). Scouts must wear hunter orange (ballcap, vest) and are advised to be alert to the presence of the poisonous cottonmouth ("Water Moccasin") snake, and to avoid (rather than kill) them. Killing snakes is prohibited. Scouting of Zone 7 (Long Island) will only be permitted from September 21 - 27, by portable, hand-launched boat only (punt, canoe, row-boat, etc. without a boat trailer). All scouts must be off Long Island by 4:00PM.
- \* ALL PERMITS ARE NON-TRANSFERRABLE.
- \* Those persons submitting more than one application will be disqualified.

ATTACHMENT #3

1998 Back Bay NWR Hunting Regulations

- \* Bag Limit: Deer - two deer per day, three deer per season (or in accordance with State regulations - whichever is larger)  
Feral Hogs - no daily limit, no season limit
- \* Hunting Dates: October 3 and 5-10 -- shotgun only (20 gauge or larger loaded with only buckshot or slugs). Bow and arrow are also permitted.
- \* Hunting Hours: 1/2 hour before sunrise to 1/2 hour after sunset.

**Unless otherwise stated all other Virginia State and Refuge regulations apply.**

- \* All hunters must check in and out at the Refuge deer-check station.
- \* The use of nails, screws, or bolts to attach stands to trees is prohibited.
- \* Dogs are prohibited.
- \* Possession of loaded firearms or nocked arrows in or on a vehicle/boat or shooting from a vehicle/boat is prohibited.
- \* Unauthorized entry outside of the assigned hunt area and/or driving motorized vehicles off designated roads is prohibited.
- \* Camping and fires on the Refuge are prohibited.
- \* Shooting at animals (ie. snakes, turtles, birds, rabbits, squirrels, etc.) other than deer or feral hogs is prohibited.
- \* Hunters must conspicuously wear a minimum of 400 square inches of solid colored "hunter blaze orange" clothing or material, on their head, chest and back (the equivalent of a hat and vest).
- \* Transportation from the check station to and from Zones 1 through 6, will be provided by Back Bay Refuge.
- \* Transportation to Zone 7 (Long Island) must be provided by the hunter in the form of a portable, hand-launched boat (punt, canoe, row-boat, etc., without a boat trailer).
- \* Transportation from the check station to and from Zone 8 will be provided by the hunter; those hunters must park in designated parking areas.
- \* Transportation to the non-ambulatory hunt area (Zone 5) must be provided by the hunter.

- \* All game must be dressed in the field at least 100 feet from any road or trail.
- \* The Hacking Tower in Zone 3 is closed. No one is permitted to climb it.
- \* Once hunters have checked in, they may not leave the Refuge until the end of their hunt day. Once they have left they cannot return, since the exit gate automatically closes behind them.
- \* Zone 7 hunters must be off of Long Island by 4:45 p.m.
- \* Possession of other weapons (rifles, handguns, crossbows, etc.) or ammunition other than shotgun slugs and buckshot, and long-shafted arrows, is prohibited.
- \* The use or possession of alcoholic beverages while hunting is prohibited.
- \* All weapons must comply with Virginia State Laws and Regulations.

**LOTTERY APPLICATION TO HUNT  
BACK BAY NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE**

1. Please fill in the information below *completely* and *legibly*.
2. Enclose this application in a stamped envelope addressed to:

Deer Hunt Application  
 Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge  
 4005 Sandpiper Road  
 Virginia Beach, VA 23456

3. Application must be postmarked by September 8, 1998 and be received no later than September 10, 1998.
4. Only successful applicants will be notified by mail.
5. **PERSONS SUBMITTING MORE THAN ONE APPLICATION WILL BE DISQUALIFIED!!!**

A. FULL NAME:(Last,First,I) \_\_\_\_\_

**SINGLE**

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

**APPLICANTS**

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE:(e.g. mo.day.year 09/10/68) \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT:( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Name

NOTE: SEE INSTRUCTIONS, (Lottery Information Sheet) BEFORE COMPLETING THIS SECTION.

B. FULL NAME:(Last,First,I) \_\_\_\_\_

**PAIRED**

STREET: \_\_\_\_\_

**WITH\***

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

BIRTHDATE:(e.g. mo.day.year 09/10/68) \_\_\_\_\_

IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY CONTACT:( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone Name

\*Insert date and zone as follows: Date (mo/day 10/05) Zone (1)

**HUNT PREFERENCES**

1ST CHOICE		2ND CHOICE		3RD CHOICE		4TH CHOICE	
DATE	ZONE	DATE	ZONE	DATE	ZONE	DATE	ZONE

\* Paired Applications will not increase or decrease the likelihood of being randomly selected.

Are you non-ambulatory and wish to participate in the special lottery? If so please attach documentation with application, together with special hunting technique required and special equipment needs, if any.

YES \_\_ NO \_\_